

REMARKS

Claims 1-32, 34-36 and 38-49 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17, 19-32, 34-36 and 38-49 remain in this application. Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice by this amendment, and claims 33 and 37 have been canceled by previous amendments. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and timely indication of allowance of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 21-32, 34-36 and 39-49 have been allowed.

Claims 18, 19, and 38 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

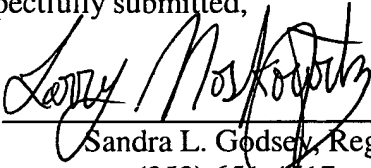
In response, claim 15 has been amended to include all of the limitation of claim 18. Claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 19 has been amended to depend on claim 15, and claim 38 has been amended to dependent on claim 36. Therefore, the objected claims are no longer dependent on a rejected claim.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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